



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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For Immediate Release

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Boards Affirm Joint Facilities Resolution

Park Authority and School Board Hold Joint Meeting

Members of the Fairfax County Park Authority Board and the Fairfax County School Board met Wednesday night to discuss common goals and challenges, existing partnerships, and conservation education programs. They also discussed a joint resolution recently passed by the Board of Supervisors and School Board calling for the co-location of services within public facilities and the cooperation of multi-agency staff in the planning and delivery of space for public and school services in order to better serve the public and realize potential reductions in administrative, construction and maintenance costs. The joint meeting was held at Green Spring Gardens in Alexandria, VA.

Park Authority Board Chairman Harold Strickland said, "We need to serve all the citizens together. We need to be a strong voice for the education of our children as well as the provision of leisure services and facilities." Chairman Strickland expressed his satisfaction with inaugural efforts to work cooperatively on a variety of topics including synthetic turf field conversions, development of a Sportsplex concept plan at Laurel Hill and potential expansion of environmental education opportunities countywide.

School Board Chairman Dan Storck noted that valuable relationships and partnerships are already in place between the Park Authority and schools, adding, "We need to establish these strong links. Operationally we may already be there but on some key issues we need to understand there will be differences and hopefully we can resolve them. Ultimately, we want to see the people of Fairfax County get excellent schools and excellent parks."

Both Boards have selected liaison members to coordinate joint agency efforts. Providence District School Board Member Phillip A Niedzielski-Eichner will represent the school system and Dranesville District Park Authority Board Member Kevin Fay will represent the Park Authority. Meetings are anticipated every six months. For more information contact the Park Authority Public Information Office at 703-324-8662.

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